

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 20 are pending in the application.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 5 through 7 are allowed, and that claim 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has amended independent claim 18, and respectfully submits that claim 18 is allowable. Thus, claim 20 is also an allowable claim.

Claims 1, 9, 10, 11 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,267,602 by Mendelson et al, hereinafter "Mendelson". Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 provides a detachable power supply apparatus for an appliance that includes a temperature control device for electrical connection to the appliance and a power supply cord. The temperature control device has a first member extending outwardly from a first side of the temperature control device. A conductor is on the first side of the temperature control device, and a probe is on a second side that is opposite the first side. The power supply cord has a female electrical connector at a first end that connects to the conductor. The female connector is connectable to a power supply to supply power to the female connector and to the conductor. The power supply cord has a second member on the power supply's first end. The first member mechanically and selectively fastens to the second member so that upon application of a force upon the power supply cord the first member disengages the second member without disturbing a position of the appliance.

Mendelson discloses a detachable power supply apparatus for use with electrical appliances including removable temperature control devices. The apparatus includes a

mounting panel on the temperature control device to which an electrical connector on a power supply cord is magnetically and electrically coupled. The mounting panel includes a ferrous contact plate attached to an outer surface thereof between a pair of conductive pins. The power supply cord includes a female electrical receptacle with a magnet subassembly attached at or near an outer surface thereof. The magnet assembly 73 in the electrical receptacle 46 is aligned with the ferrous contact plate 44 of the mounting panel (col. 6, lines 8-10). The contact plate 44 is attached to a rear or outer surface of a central wall 25 of a plug connection or mounting panel 24 of the temperature control device (col. 5, lines 22-24). A magnetic couple is formed between the mounting panel contact plate 44 and the magnetically conductive plates 76 (col. 6, lines 12-13). The magnetically conductive plates 76 extend forward and outward from the electrical receptacle 46 (col. 6, lines 13-14).

Mendelson discloses a detachable power supply apparatus having a **magnetic** coupling. However, Mendelson fails to disclose that “said first member **mechanically** and selectively fastens to said second member,” as recited in claim 1. Thus, Mendelson fails to disclose or suggest the elements of claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Mendelson.

Claims 9 and 10 depend from claim 1. For at least reasoning similar to that provided in support of claim 1, claims 9 and 10 are also patentable over Mendelson.

Independent claim 11 provides a detachable power supply apparatus for an appliance including a temperature control device having a first side and an opposite second side, and a power supply cord having a third side and an opposite fourth side. The temperature control device is electrically connected to the appliance. The temperature control device has a probe extending outwardly from the first side, and a conductor on the second side. The power supply cord has a second conductor at the fourth side to connect to a power supply, and a female connector at the third side for connecting to the first conductor, wherein said second side selectively and removably connects to said third side by a mechanical fastener.

Mendelson, as described above, discloses a detachable power supply apparatus having a **magnetic** coupling. However, Mendelson fails to disclose that "said second side selectively and removably connects to said third side by a **mechanical** fastener," as recited in claim 11. Therefore, Mendelson fails to disclose or suggest the elements of claim 11. Thus, claim 11 is patentable over Mendelson.

Claim 17 depends from claim 11. For at least reasoning similar to that provided in support of claim 11, claim 17 is also patentable over Mendelson.

For the reasons set forth above, the rejection of claims 1, 9 through 11 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Mendelson is overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 9 through 11 and 17 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,159,725 by Dennis, hereinafter "Dennis". Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 18 provides a detachable power supply apparatus for an appliance including a first electrical component having a first side and an opposite second side, and a second component having a third side and an opposite fourth side. The first electrical component is electrically connected to the appliance by a first conductive member on the first side, and has a second conductive member on the second side. The second component has a third conductive member connected to a power source at the third side, and has a fourth conductive member at the fourth side. The first electrical component has a bulbous catch pin, having a stem connected to a substantially spherical portion, at a first location of the second side, and the said second component has a clip at a second location on the fourth side. The first location is complementary to the second location so that the clip releasably engages the bulbous catch pin and releases the bulbous catch pin upon an application of a force upon the second component so that a location of the appliance is not disturbed.

Dennis discloses a detachable electric fixture for magnetically connecting electrical cords including a socket element and a coacting mating plug element (col. 1, lines 6-8). Connection between the plug element and the socket element is effectuated by means of a key slot in one element and an interlocking key slidably engaging with the key slot (col. 1, lines 48-52).

However, Dennis does not disclose a bulbous catch pin having a stem connected to a spherical portion. As shown in Fig. 1, Dennis provides a vertical key slot in a T-shape that interlocks with a T-shaped interlocking key. There is no disclosure in Dennis of a bulbous member having a spherical portion.

Thus, Dennis fails to disclose or suggest the elements of claim 18. Therefore, claim 18 is patentable over Dennis.

Claim 19 depends from claim 18. For at least reasoning similar to that provided in support of claim 18, claim 19 is also patentable over Dennis.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 18 through 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Dennis is overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 18 through 20 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 2 through 4, 8, 12 through 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mendelson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,379,169 by Corona, hereinafter "Corona". Claim 12 is canceled and claim 11 is amended to incorporate features previously in claim 12. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Corona provides an electrical plug connector provided with a locking mechanism (col. 2, lines 20-22). The locking mechanism includes a cylindrically shaped member extending from the periphery of the male part, and a latch attached to the periphery of

the female part (col. 1, lines 29-35). This latch is adapted to receive the cylindrically shaped member therethrough, which locks the male and female connector parts together. A female connector part includes a latch 70 on two opposite sides of a housing of the female connector (col. 2, lines 1-2). Latch 70 contains an aperture 72 into which cylindrical flange 100 fits to lock the female and male parts together (col. 2, lines 2-5). Cylindrical shaped flanges 100 extend from two opposite sides of a molded housing of a male connector part (col. 2, lines 12-13). Cylindrical shaped flange 100 is made of a resilient rubber so that it can be squeezed through latch 70 and then resume its initial shape “to firmly lock the two connectors together” (col. 2, lines 21-24).

The Examiner states that Corona, “teaches the removable plug-receptacle electrical connection with the spring lock mechanism. Utilization of this locking mechanism well known in the art would improve dependability of this removable plug-receptacle electrical connection of Mendelson” (Office Action, page 6). Applicant disagrees, because there is no motivation to combine the teachings of Mendelson and Corona. Also, the proposed modification of Mendelson would render the device of Mendelson unsatisfactory for its intended purpose.

There is no motivation to combine the teachings of Mendelson and Corona. Mendelson purports to provide an apparatus wherein, “upon being kicked, pulled, or otherwise forcefully disturbed, the power cord became separated from the probe without disturbing the appliance” (col. 1, lines 56-60). The Examiner’s definition of dependability appears to be the provision of a more secure locking connection. This aspect of Corona, however, would provide no benefit to the device of Mendelson, as Mendelson’s stated goal is to provide an apparatus that would only withstand a preselected force and would release without disturbing an appliance. The locking device of Corona, providing a firm locking connection, does not suggest that the locking connection could be released upon application of a specific amount of force. There is no suggestion of a spring mechanism or other mechanism for release in response to a force on the male or female connector part. On the contrary, the description in Corona of a firm locking connection suggests that such a connection would withstand significant

force, and would not easily release in response to a preselected force so that an appliance would not be disturbed.

In addition, inclusion of the locking mechanism of Corona would render the device of Mendelson **unsuitable for its intended purpose**. Mendelson discloses a power supply apparatus that allows “the plug to withstand a predetermined or preselected pulling force and a predetermined or preselected shearing or lateral force” (col. 2, lines 18-20). A stated goal of Mendelson is to provide a device wherein, “upon being kicked, pulled, or otherwise forcefully disturbed, the power cord became separated from the probe without disturbing the appliance” (col. 1, lines 56-60).

In contrast, Corona provides an apparatus that serves to **firmly lock** the two connectors together. The apparatus does not allow for a plug that would withstand only a preselected pulling, shearing or lateral force. The cylindrical flange and aperture of Corona are provided to ensure that such forces do not break the connection. The ability to “firmly lock” the connectors together suggests that no force on either the male or female connector part, short of a force sufficient to break the mechanism, would cause the connectors to release.

Therefore, the locking mechanism of Corona, designed to “firmly lock the two connectors together,” would render Mendelson unsuitable for its intended purpose, namely to provide a mechanism that would release a power supply upon application of a sufficient force without disturbing an appliance.

Thus, there is no suggestion or motivation to combine Mendelson and Corona. Therefore, claims 2 through 4, 12 through 16 and 18 are patentable over the cited combination of Mendelson and Corona.

For the reasons set forth above, the rejection of claims 2 through 4, 12 through 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Mendelson in view of Corona is overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of 2 through 4, 12 through

16 and 18 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

An indication of the allowability of all pending claims by issuance of a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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